to end approach having backward and forward linkages, covering production, post harvest management and marketing, with the active participation of all the stake holders. The Annual Action Plan in this regard is prepared by the State Horticulture Mission Societies and approved by the Executive Committee of NHM duly ensuring end to end linkages. Setting up of 490 markets have been envisaged during the Tenth Plan.

Collection of Royalty by Monsanto

579. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational bio-technological company Monsanto is collecting exorbitant royalty from farmers in our country;

(b) whether the royalty charged by the company is much higher than its charges in the U.S.;

(c) if so, whether complaints have also been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) M/s. Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. And its sub-licencee companies are reportedly charging Rs. 1250/- as trait value for 450 gms. of Bt. cotton hybrid seeds.

(c) and (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and President, Andhra Pradesh Ryotu Sangam, Hyderabad have filed complaints against M/s Mahyco Monsanto Biotech (India) Ltd. Before the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission for charging exorbitant trait value on Bt. Cotton hybrid seeds. The MRTP Commission has ordered a preliminary investigation into the alleged monopolistic/restrictive and unfair trade practices of the Company.

Research on wheat and rice production

580. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic research in agriculture has been conducted to increase agriculture production of wheat and rice in the country;